

Ysgol Bryngwyn School

Update for Parents, Carers and

Learners – 9th January 2024



Latest News:

1. **Mock Exams and Assessment Information for Years 10 and 11**
2. **Year 9 Options**
3. **Freedom Fortnight Year 7**
4. **Safety in the Community**
5. **Welsh Government Consultation on Changes to the School Year**

Key Dates:

- **Tuesday 9th January:** All learners return to school
- **Wednesday 10th January:** Year 10 GCSE English Literature Unit One
- **Monday 15th January – Friday 26th January:** Year 7 Freedom Fortnight
- **Wednesday 24th January:** Year 9 Options Evening for parents and pupils

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to school for an exciting Spring Term at Bryngwyn. We hope you and your families have enjoyed some well-deserved rest over the Christmas break and had the chance to spend time with family and friends.



BE A GLOBAL CITIZEN

Let us be good stewards of the earth we inherited. All of us have to share the Earth's fragile ecosystems and precious resources, and each of us has a role to play in preserving them.

Kofi Anan

A thought for this week

*Yn rhoi o'n gorau
Giving our best to be the best*

All learners and staff return on-site today and our timetables are on **Week Two**.

Today



3°
-3°

Sunny and a moderate breeze

Wed 10th



6°

1°



6°

1°

Thu 11th



6°

1°



Fri 12th



6°

1°

The weather for the week ahead appears very cold but dry with some sunshine.

1. Mock Exams and Assessment Information for Years 10 and 11

Firstly, we would like to commend all learners in Years 10 and 11 who undertook their mock GCSE exams before the end of last term for all their efforts and their excellent conduct throughout the exam period. Results and detailed feedback will be shared with pupils from their subject teachers during lessons. This will provide a valuable chance to identify areas to target ahead of the Summer exams.

Year 11 Reports

Mock exam results for pupils in Year 11 and a detailed review of progress will be shared with parents in the Year 11 Reports due to be issued shortly.

Important Dates

Please see below a link to the timetables given to learners.

Other important dates in the assessment calendar for Year 11 include:

- *February 2nd 2024 PE Practical GCSE*
- *Jan & Feb 2024 Science Practical GCSE*
- *Jan 2024 Food Practical GCSE*

2. Year 9 Options and Parents' Evening

Thank you to everyone who returned their preliminary options choices last term. Over the coming weeks, learners will be supported to make their final choices by selecting from options blocks.



There will also be an options booklet, information online and a Parents' Options Evening on **Wednesday 24th January onsite at Bryngwyn School.**



In KS4 (Year 10) there are several 'new' courses that pupils will not have studied previously. In order to help you and your children to have a clearer understanding of what these may include, pre-recorded video information will also be available to

both parents and pupils. Furthermore, some vocational courses will be available in partnership with Coleg Sir Gar. There is information available on your child's Google Classroom that you may like to watch together.

We are also supported by our Careers Advisor from Careers Wales. Her name is Mrs Marcia Evans and she is always keen to support parents and pupils through this process. There is also a great deal of information on the Careers website which can be accessed at:

<https://careerswales.gov.wales/>

Specific support from Careers Wales on selecting subject options is available on the link below:

[Help your child make career decisions | Careers Wales \(gov.wales\)](#)

Or for further support and careers advice please call 0800 028 4844



Year 7 Freedom Fortnight - COURAGE

From **Monday 15th January**, learners in Year 7 will be embarking on an exciting learning activity across the curriculum to explore the concept of **courage**. This will involve working collaboratively to practise a range of skills while learning about and developing our own courage. Some of the skills we will be covering include the following:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Digital Literacy
- Planning and Organisation
- Personal Effectiveness
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Creativity and Innovation

We are looking forward to exploring this theme more deeply within our six Areas of Learning and Experience and hope our learners will enjoy becoming even more courageous. This will involve working in different ways and extending our pedagogy to try new approaches. We are excited to share the learning outcomes with parents in the forthcoming Year 7 Parents' Evening later this term.

4. Our Local Community

Roadworks

B 4304 Road Works



We have been informed by Carmarthenshire County Council that significant changes are about to commence that will necessitate road works and traffic disruption that may affect pupils and parents on their way to and from school. Please see below for more information:

Carmarthenshire County Council have been successful in securing funding for the construction of the scheme (outlined in the attached plan) from Welsh Government via their Active Travel Fund. The design, comprising of Exchange Row and the B4303 is in line with the principles of Llwybr Newydd – The Wales Transport Strategy 2021.

Locally, this is a key area on our aspirational spinal route between Hendy and the Millennium Coastal Path/Pentre Awel development. The crossing, which is due to be upgraded in this location is particularly important as it is well used by pupils attending the local schools. The scheme will also help to alleviate road safety concerns in the area.

The spinal route will create a corridor of high-quality active travel infrastructure with links to key trip attractors such as employment sites, hospitals, and education centres.

Important indicative dates are outlined below:

- 08/01/24 – Works commencement - Creation of compound on site.
- 20/01/24 – One way (partial lane closure) to be introduced for 5 days. Saturday to Wednesday. Traffic allowed out to roundabout but not in.
- 23/03/24 – Full closure to be introduced for a minimum of 1 week to coincide with the Easter Holiday period. The length of the closure will be minimised as much as possible. This is to allow for surfacing and kerbing.
- Reinstatement likely to continue until end of March/early April. During this time the route will be fully reopened to traffic.

Please note that we will be making all efforts to minimise disruption throughout the construction period.

Keeping Learners Safe

As you know, the roads around the school can be very busy at the end of the day when learners are being collected and buses are leaving the school. As requested by the Local Authority, the

gates are closed from 2.45pm to ensure **no vehicles move in the school car park until pupils have vacated the area.**

We appreciate your help in further ensuring pupil safety by **not parking on the yellow zigzags** on the road around the school and being mindful of local residents if parking on nearby streets.

We have also been requested to ask parents who use the car park of Prince Phillip Hospital to please avoid parking in the hospital's designated "Pick Up and Drop Off" zones as these areas need to be kept clear to assist disabled and unwell patients to enter and exit vehicles safely.



Your support is always appreciated.

5. Welsh Government Consultation on Changes to the School Year from 2025 onwards

You may be aware that the Welsh Assembly Government has recently begun to explore making changes to the school year. Please see below a message from the Government with a link to the consultation in order for you to share your views:

Jeremy Miles MS, Minister for Education and Welsh Language has opened a consultation seeking views on the school year. We are seeking your views on proposals to amend school term dates so that terms are more equal in length, with more evenly distributed breaks, for maintained schools in Wales.

<https://www.gov.wales/structure-school-year>

The consultation will be open until 12 February 2024.

General News Round-Up



- **Wellbeing** – We are delighted once again to be able to offer **free toast** to learners before school. Toast is served each morning in the dining area to ensure all our learners have the chance to start the day with a breakfast to boost learning power!
- **Changes to School Free Meals: Could You Be Eligible?** – There have been some changes to how school free meals are allocated. For more information, please see the link below:

[https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/docs/letters_to_parents/05.07.12 -
_Free_School_Meal_Information.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0oZ4HNGG_QXMYB5UyFB2HbZDZLauIzi8
y7Pf6ykmuZi1veIRHbApvkrGs](https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/docs/letters_to_parents/05.07.12_-_Free_School_Meal_Information.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0oZ4HNGG_QXMYB5UyFB2HbZDZLauIzi8y7Pf6ykmuZi1veIRHbApvkrGs) .

- **Salvation Army Toy Appeal – Huge Thank You!** – Bryngwyn learners have once more exceeded expectation with their amazing contributions to the Salvation Army Toy Appeal to help children at Christmas. We would like to thank you all for your donations. ***Diolch pawb!***
- **Extra-Curricular Activities** – our full range of extra-curricular activities will recommence from Monday 15th January.

As a school, we would like to thank everyone who works so hard to make these opportunities happen, and especially our pupils who take part with such enthusiasm.

Proud to be Bryngwyn!

Links to important information

- Canteen Prices: <https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/Parents/Catering/>
- **School Uniform & Equipment Grant**
- **Free School Meals** - <https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/school-meals/free-school-meals/#.X4gaJNBKiUI>
- **New School Menu** - <https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/Parents/Catering/>

Keeping Informed of Changes

In order to make sure you receive all of our messages and updates immediately, it is important that the contact details on our school systems remain up to date. If any details have changed, please let us know by emailing us on enq@bryngwyn.cymru .

Thank you as always for your continued support of our school. We look forward to continuing to work together to provide the very best experiences for all our learners.

Telephone: 01554 750661

Email: enq@bryngwyn.cymru

Website: <https://www.bryngwynschool.co.uk/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/bryngwynschool/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/bryngwynschool>

Diolch,

Mr R S Jones

Head of School

